**IB HOA 11**

**DBQ on Reconstruction**

**From the following sources and your own knowledge, to what extent were African Americans better off after Reconstruction than they were before the Civil War?**

**Source A**

Amendment 13: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or and place subject to their jurisdiction….

Amendment 14: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws....

Amendment 15: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous conditions of servitude….

Source: U.S. Constitution

Significant Fact:

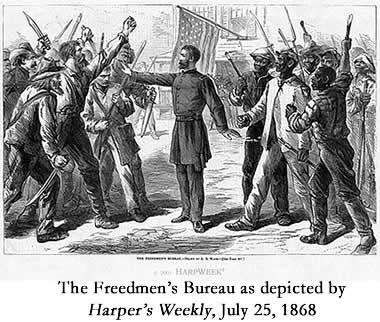
**Source B**

The Freedmen's Bureau was the conscience and common-sense of the country, stepping between the hostile parties and saying to them, with irresistible authority, "Peace!" The country had made the slaves free. It recognized them as men. It had seen their unswerving and heroic fidelity to the cause of the Union, knowing it to be that of their recovered liberty. It resolved that the only way to develop manhood is to treat men as men. It therefore stood between the freedmen and starvation and cruel laws, meanwhile giving them arms and schools and civil and political equality, that they might start fair in the common race. Through the quiet force of the Bureau the hostile class at the South has felt the perpetual presence of the will and power of the American people. The Bureau charities of direct relief of food have been shared by all the destitute of every color, and meanwhile its organizing hand has helped to arrange labor upon the new basis, to compose disputes, to accustom the whole population to the new order. Its service in this respect has been incalculable.

Source: Editorial in Harper’s Weekly On July 24, 1868

Significant Fact:

**Source C**



Significant Fact:

**Source D**

Whereas it is essential to just government we recognize the equality of all men before the law, and hold that it is the duty of government in its dealings with the people to mete out equal and exact justice to all, of whatever nativity, race, color, or persuasion, religious or political....

That all persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of inns, public conveyances on land or water, theaters, another places of public amusement;….

Source: The Civil Rights Act. March 1, 1875

Significant Fact:

**Source E**

Every one of the several Southern States which have voted under the reconstruction acts of Congress has been carried by the white and colored loyalists. Louisiana, Virginia, Alabama, and now Georgia, have declared by large majorities of Union men in favor of Conventions to remodel the State Constitutions on the basis of equal rights to all, and in each and all of them positive and decided Unionists of both colors have been chosen to assist in this labor of remodeling the State laws. The good sense and discretion, and above all the modesty, which the freedmen have displayed in the exercise, for the first time, of the great privilege which has been bestowed upon them, and the vast power which accompanies the privilege, have been most noticeable. Admiration of their commendable conduct has suggested the admirable engraving which we give on the first page of this issue. The freedmen are represented marching to the ballot-box to deposit their first vote, not with expressions of exultation or of defiance of their old masters and present opponents depicted on their countenances, but looking serious and solemn and determined. The picture is one which should interest every colored loyalist in the country.

Source: “The First Vote” in Harper’s Weekly, November 16, 1867

Significant Fact:

**Source F**

Let there be White Leagues formed in every town, village and hamlet of the South, and let us organize for the great struggle which seems inevitable. We have no war to make against the United States Government, but against the Republican Party our hate must be unquenchable, our war indeterminable and merciless. Fast fleeting away is the day of wordy protests and idle appeals to the magnanimity of the Republican Party. By brute force they are endeavoring to force us into acquiescence to their hideous program. We have submitted long enough to indignities, and it is time to meet brute-force with brute-force. Every Southern State should swarm with White Leagues, and we should stand ready to act the moment Grant signs the civil-rights bill. It will not do to wait till radicalism has fettered us to the car of social equality before we make an effort to resist it. The signing of the bill will be a declaration of war against the southern whites. It is our duty to ourselves, it is our duty to our children, it is our duty to the white race whose prowess subdued the wilderness of this continent, whose civilization filled it with cities and towns and villages...to let northern radicals understand that military supervision of southern elections and the civil-rights bill mean war, and that war means bloodshed, and that we are terribly in earnest, and even they, fanatical as they are, may retrace their steps before it is too late.

Source: Atlanta News, "Meet Brute Forces with Brute Forces," September 10, 1874

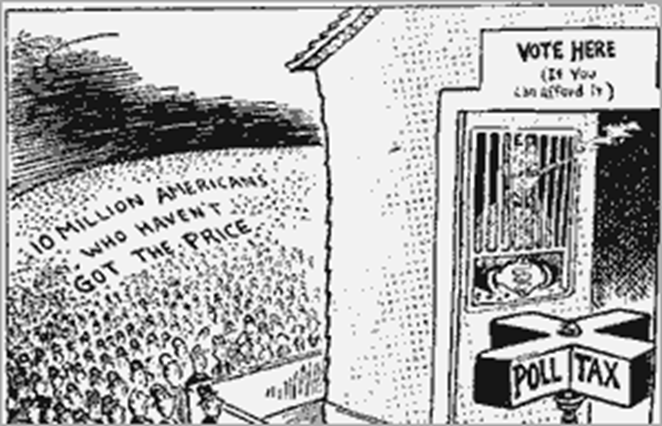
Significant Fact:

**Source G**

It is common for the advocates of Negro suffrage to assume that the color of the Negro is the main obstacle to his admission to political equality…. But it is not the complexion of the Negro that degrades him…. [The Negro is] a race by nature in mental caliber … the Negroes are not the equals of white Americans, and are not entitled … to participate in the Government of this country.

Source: Representative Benjamin Boyer [D-Pennsylvania] Speech to Congress, Congressional Record. 1866.

Significant Fact:

**Source H**

Significant Fact:

**Source I**

Freedom wasn’t no different I knows of. I works for Marse John just the same for a long time. He say one morning, “John, you can go out in the field iffen you wants to or you can get out iffen you wants to, ‘cause the government say you is free. If you wants to work I’ll feed you and give you clothes but can’t pay you no money. I ain’t got none.” Humph, I didn’t know nothing what money was, no how, but I know I’ll git plenty victuals to eat, so I stays….

Source: Former slave, John McCoy, in Lay My Burden Down: A Folk History of Slavery.

Significant Fact: